ER - 9 - 4255
Copy 3 of 3

11 June 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: [redacted]

THROUGH: [redacted]

SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Saucers (UFO)

1. In our discussion on UFO you asked three questions which for convenience I am using as side-headings below:

HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOLLOWING UFO BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM THE AIR FORCE TO CIA? No. The Air Force and CIA are both still following UFO.

WHO IN CIA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR UFO? The DD/I/OSI, Phil Strong, specifically.

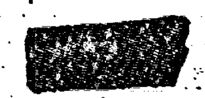
WHAT IS CIA DOING ON UFO? The following is a brief sketch of activity which I obtained from Phil Strong's memory: Five years ago in the summer of 1952, OSI undertook a study of UFO by IAC action. OSI formed a panel consisting of the following members:

Lloyd Berkner, President, Association of Universities; President, International Council of Scientific Boards; Member of the President's Scientific Advisory Committee, (ODM).

H. P. Robertson, Chairman, Physics Dept., Cal Tech; once WSEG Civilian Director; Science Advisor to SHAPE Commander for two years, OSI Consultant.

Sam Goudsmit, Chairman, Department of Physics, Brookhaven National Laboratory; formerly member Combined Scientific and Military Team during post-war period examining German nuclear program.

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE 24 Nov 78

Luis Alvarez, one of country's top physicists at Berkeley, also at Los [illegible] Alamos; [illegible] a very sensitive project in this field. Apparently [illegible] Thorton Page, John Hopkins University. [illegible] The Air Force and Navy (including the Navy's PIC) supported the study. Phil says the report was extremely thorough and was distributed to the IAC. (Copy attached, [illegible] the last two pages contain the summary.) [illegible] 2. Since the study was made (17 January 1953), OSI has maintained a watching process on UFO. Although very few reports are received, those which do appear are examined by the following units: If concerning natural phenomena, they are turned over to the Geo-Physics Unit of the Fundamental Sciences Division in OSI. If they concern the hardware aspects of flying craft, they are turned over to the former Weapons Unit concerned with aircraft in the Applied Science Division of OSI. Gen. Watson, ATIC, (Phil Strong believes) maintains one or two officers following the UFO question. This ATIC effort is all that is left of an earlier, larger Air Force Project called "Blue Book." (Copy of Project report dated 5 May 1955 is attached, - conclusions are on p. 94). Concerning take on this question, Phil states that very little comes in and that nothing has been received of importance. Two or three years ago [redacted] reported seeing a flying saucer in vertical take-off in the Soviet Caucasus, but nothing was developed by intelligence. (Analysis of this case is attached.) This incident is the only "flap" that Phil can remember.

3. I asked Phil point-blank if the unexplained category could include actual secret Soviet advanced aeronautical equipment. He replied, "Conceivably, yes." However, speaking from memory he felt that the possibility existed that if further information was obtainable, the remaining small percentage of unknowns might be explained.

4. I also asked Phil point-blank if there was any special collection going on against UFO targets. He replied that there was no collection as such but that radical aeronautical design advances not limited to flying saucer types was a high priority collection requirement. In this regard he added that OSI has no information concerning new Soviet design which would indicate possible construction of flying saucer type aircraft. The Applied Sciences Division of OSI and ATIC work closely together in following radical new designs and advances by the Soviets.

[redacted]

5. For your information I learned from Hovertom and Strong that the British and Canadians have a very sensitive project in this field. Apparently the Canadians run the project which has completed the design of a flying saucer. Hoverton states that he has seen the prototype. Hoverton describes the saucer as "just that" in shape with jets on the circumference. The jets are in vertical position for take-off and are shifted horizontally for forward movement. Strong, speaking from memory, believed the design called for operations at 60,000 feet or better. The responsible aircraft company is the Avirl, a jointly-owned British and Canadian outfit. According to Strong, the USAF initially provided some of the funds, but is no longer doing so. Hoverton advised that the Air Force has "some projects" along this line.

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Office of the Director
Planning and Coordination Staff

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